

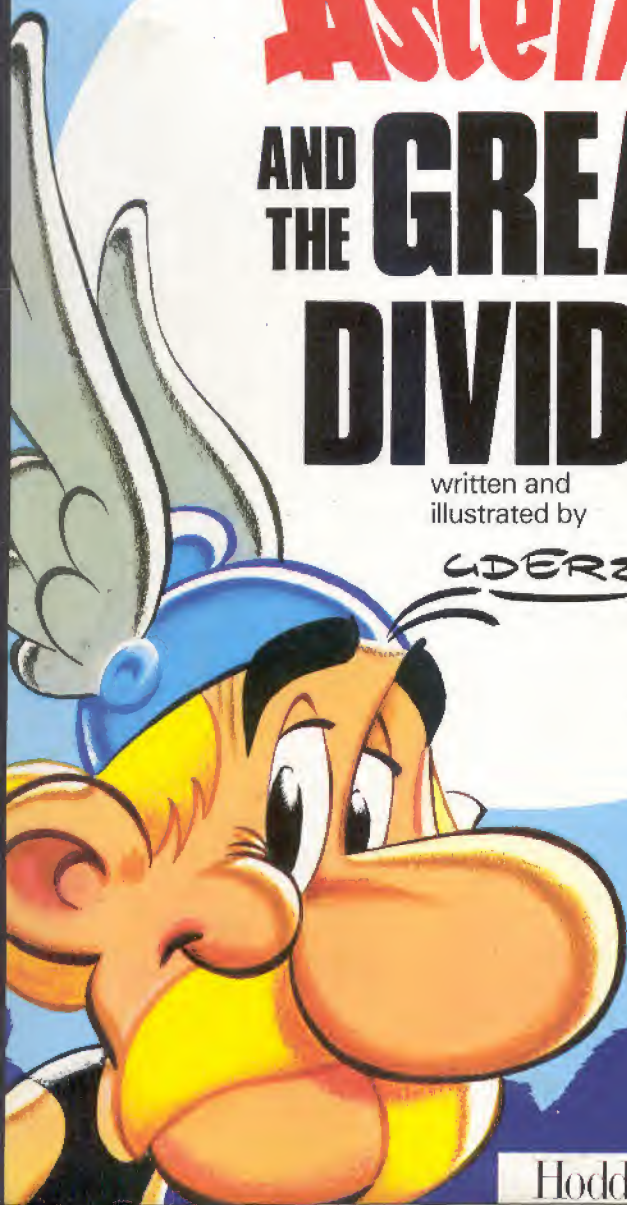
R. GOSCINNY - A. UDERZO

**Asterix**

AND THE **GREAT  
DIVIDE**

written and  
illustrated by

UDERZO



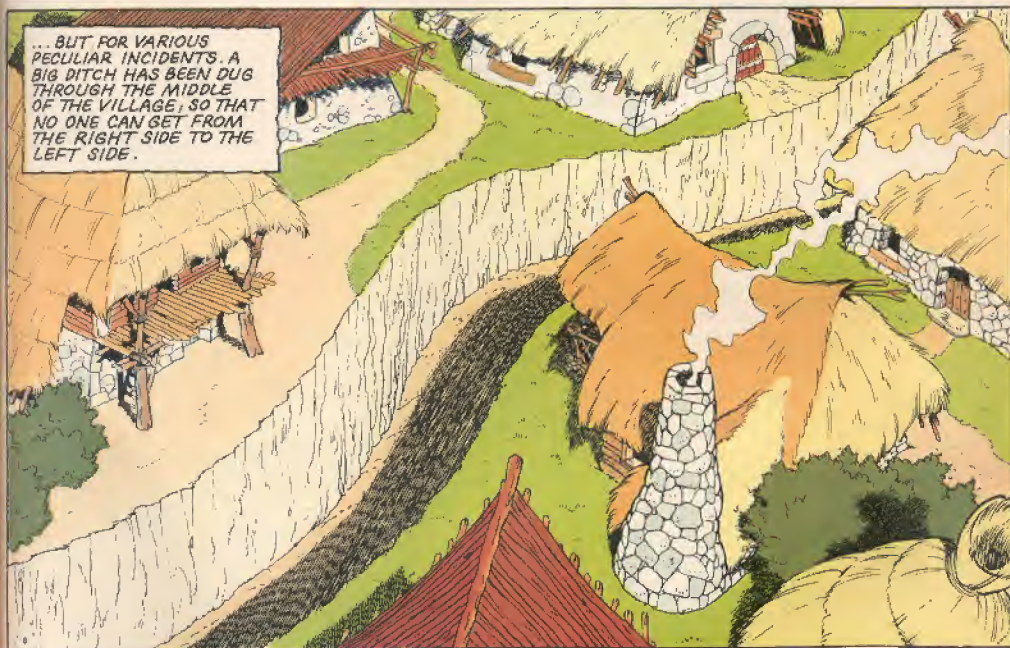
Hodder & Stoughton



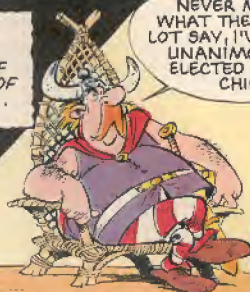
SOMEWHERE IN GAUL, PEACE WOULD BE  
REIGNING IN A LITTLE VILLAGE VERY  
LIKE THE VILLAGE WHERE ASTERIX  
LIVES...



... BUT FOR VARIOUS  
PECULIAR INCIDENTS, A  
BIG DITCH HAS BEEN DUG  
THROUGH THE MIDDLE  
OF THE VILLAGE, SO THAT  
NO ONE CAN GET FROM  
THE RIGHT SIDE TO THE  
LEFT SIDE.



**CLEVERDIX**  
HAS BEEN  
ELECTED CHIEF  
BY THE LEFT OF  
THE VILLAGE...



NEVER MIND  
WHAT THE OTHER  
LOT SAY, I'VE BEEN  
UNANIMOUSLY  
ELECTED VILLAGE  
CHIEF!

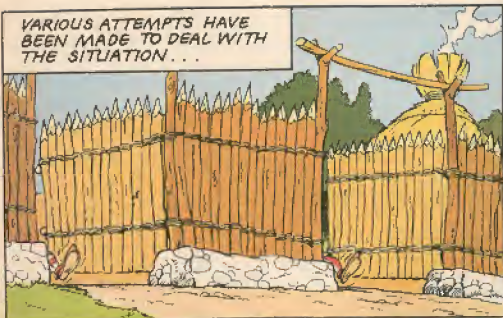
**MAJESTIX** HAS  
BEEN ELECTED CHIEF  
BY THE RIGHT OF THE  
VILLAGE... MONARCH  
OF HALF HE SURVEYS.



BY  
DIVINE  
RIGHT!



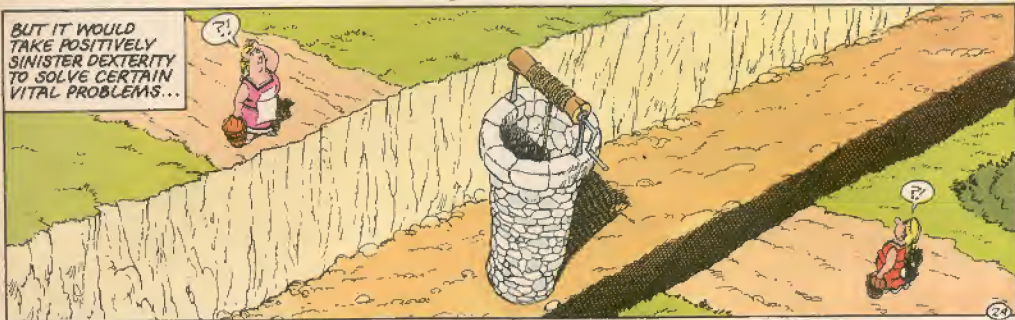
VARIOUS ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION...



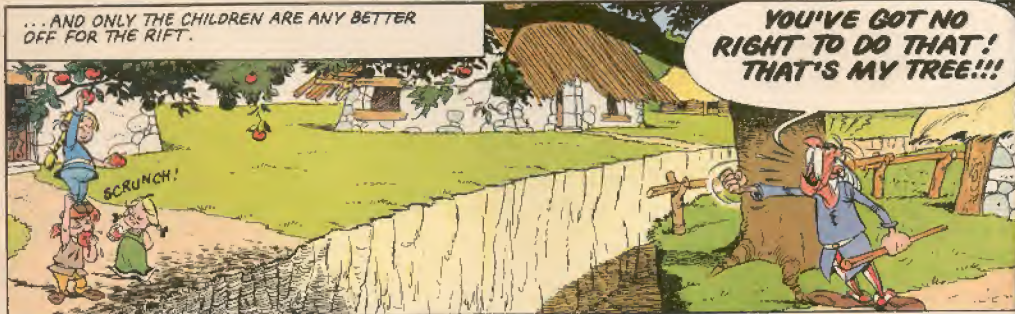
AND THE VILLAGERS OF THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ARE EVER READY TO EXPRESS THEIR MUTUAL ANTAGONISM.



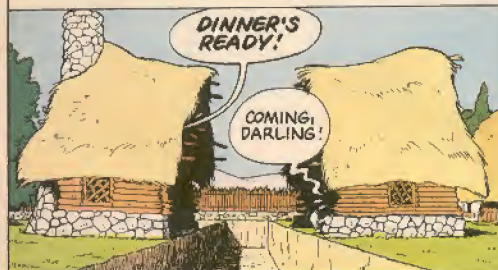
BUT IT WOULD TAKE POSITIVELY SINISTER DEXTERITY TO SOLVE CERTAIN VITAL PROBLEMS...



... AND ONLY THE CHILDREN ARE ANY BETTER OFF FOR THE RIFT.



SOME OF THE VILLAGERS, HAVING OPTED FOR NEUTRALITY, FIND THAT IT HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES.





IN CHIEF  
CLEVERDIX'S  
HUT...

LOOK HERE, FATHER, THIS CAN'T GO  
ON! THAT DITCH DIVIDING US IS A  
DISGRACE TO THE VILLAGE!

IS THAT MY  
FAULT, HISTRIONIX,  
MY BOY? THAT  
TRAITOR MAJESTIX  
SANK TO BRIBING  
SOME OF THE  
VOTERS.

HE AND HIS  
HENCHMAN, THE  
UNSPEAKABLE CODFIX,  
HAD THE NERVE TO  
GET VOTES FROM  
VILLAGERS WHO WERE  
ONLY BABES IN ARMS!

WELL, AT THIS RATE  
FUTURE GENERATIONS  
OF GAULS AREN'T  
GOING TO THINK  
MUCH OF THEIR  
ANCESTORS!

CAN  
YOU SUGGEST  
ANYTHING,  
FATHER?

YES, MY BOY,  
I CAN. I'VE  
DECIDED TO MAKE A  
SPEECH TO THE VILLAGERS  
OPPOSITE. THAT'LL BRIDGE  
THE GAP. THEY'LL SOON  
SEE HOW WRONG  
THEY WERE TO  
DITCH ME!

AND IN CHIEF  
MAJESTIX'S  
HUT...

OH, FATHER, DO YOU  
REMEMBER HOW HAPPY  
THE VILLAGE WAS  
WHEN WE ONLY  
HAD ONE CHIEF,  
ALTRUISTIX?

YES, I DO! THE OLD  
50-AND-50 TOOK  
AFTER HIS COUSIN  
ALCAPONIX... MAKING  
OFF WITH ALL THE  
VILLAGE'S TAXES!

THIS IS ALL THAT FOOL  
CLEVERDIX'S FAULT! HE  
STOLE VOTES WHICH WERE  
MINE BY RIGHT.

HE EVEN PROMISED TO  
BRING DOWN INFLATION, AND  
THOSE IDIOTS FELL FOR IT!  
THAT WAS WHEN THE  
BALLOON WENT UP!

MELODRAMA IS RIGHT!  
WE NEED A SINGLE CHIEF  
TO LEAD THE VILLAGE. YOU  
LET THEM KNOW OVER  
ON THE LEFT THAT YOU'RE  
THE RIGHTFUL CHIEF!

CODFIX,  
YOUR ADVICE  
ISN'T ALWAYS  
COPSWALLOP!  
YES, I'LL  
ADDRESS  
THEM!

AND SOON  
AFTERWARDS...

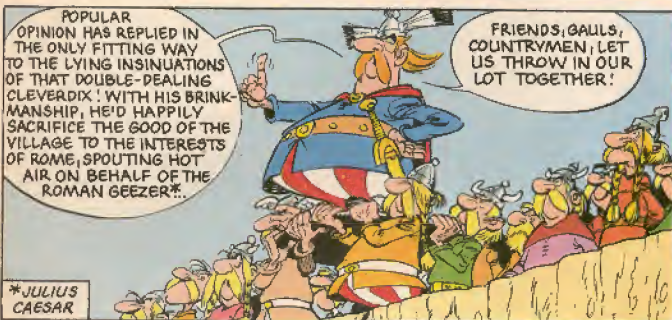


BROTHERS, WE ARE HOVERING ON THE BRINK OF VILLAGE DISASTER! BUT THE PARTY OF THE LEFT OFFERS FULL EMPLOYMENT... MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL FOR ALL WORKERS...



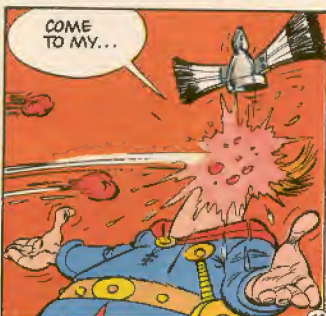
... SHIELD-BEARERS INCLUDED. DON'T YOU LISTEN TO MAJESTIX! HE'D PLUCK THE VERY WINGS FROM YOUR HELMETS! WORKERS OF THE VILLAGE, UNITE!

POPULAR OPINION HAS REPLIED IN THE ONLY FITTING WAY TO THE LYING INSINUATIONS OF THAT DOUBLE-DEALING CLEVERDIX! WITH HIS BRINKMANSHIP, HE'D HAPPILY SACRIFICE THE GOOD OF THE VILLAGE TO THE INTERESTS OF ROME, SPOUTING HOT AIR ON BEHALF OF THE ROMAN GEEZER!



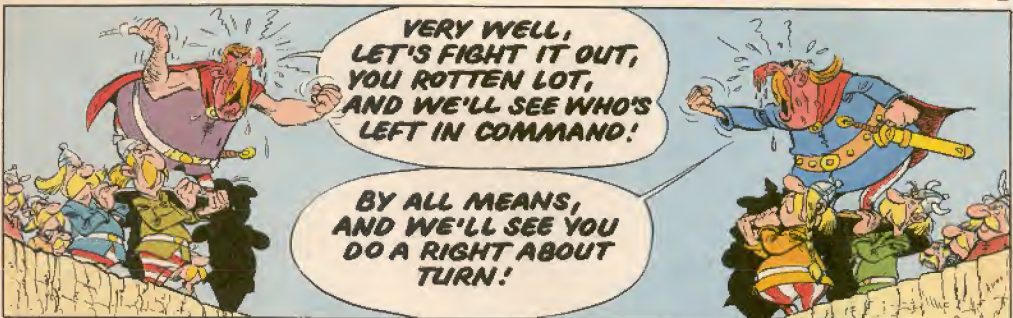
\*JULIUS CAESAR

FRIENDS, GAULS, COUNTRYMEN, LET US THROW IN OUR LOT TOGETHER!



VERY WELL, LET'S FIGHT IT OUT, YOU ROTTEN LOT, AND WE'LL SEE WHO'S LEFT IN COMMAND!

BY ALL MEANS, AND WE'LL SEE YOU DO A RIGHT ABOUT TURN!



RSRRRR! RSRRRR!





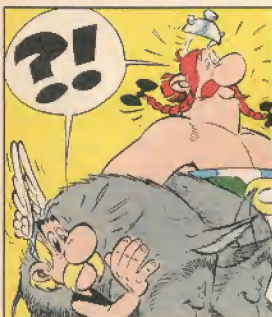
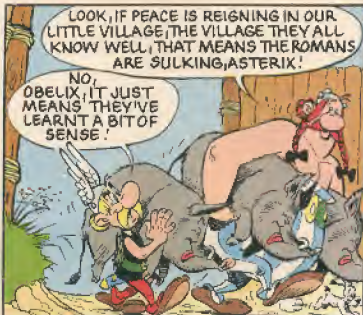


ELSEWHERE, PEACE IS REIGNING IN ANOTHER LITTLE VILLAGE, A VILLAGE WE ALL KNOW WELL...



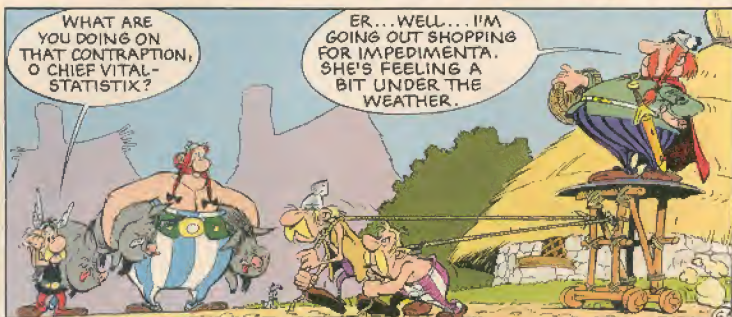
LOOK, IF PEACE IS REIGNING IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE, THE VILLAGE THEY ALL KNOW WELL, THAT MEANS THE ROMANS ARE SULKING, ASTERIX!

NO, OBELIX, IT JUST MEANS THEY'VE LEARN'T A BIT OF SENSE!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THAT CONTRAFTION, O CHIEF VITAL STATISTIX?

ER... WELL... I'M GOING OUT SHOPPING FOR IMPEDIMENTA. SHE'S FEELING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER.



BUT WHAT'S THE CART FOR?

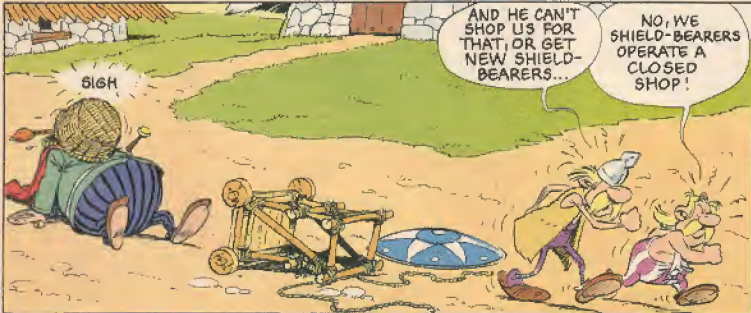
OH, THE CART! THAT'S A NEW IDEA OF MINE. IT MEANS THESE CLUMSY GREAT OAFS CAN'T LET ME DOWN ANY MORE WHEN THE FANCY TAKES THEM.

RIGHT, YOU TWO! WHATEVER YOU DO NOW, I STAND FIRM ON MY TRUSTY SHIELD! SO OFF WE GO SHOPPING!



AND HE CAN'T SHOP US FOR THAT, OR GET NEW SHIELD-BEARERS...

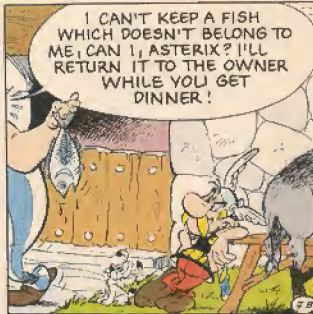
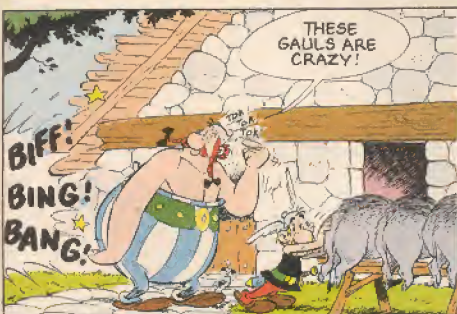
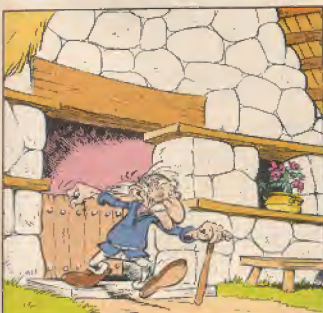
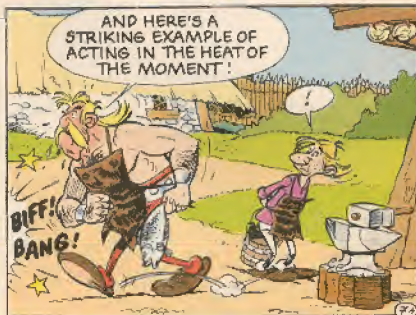
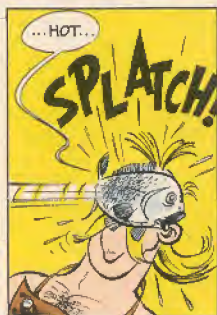
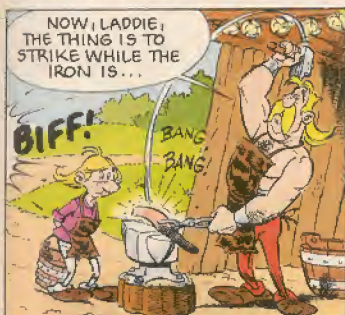
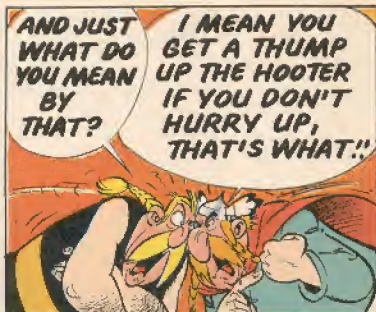
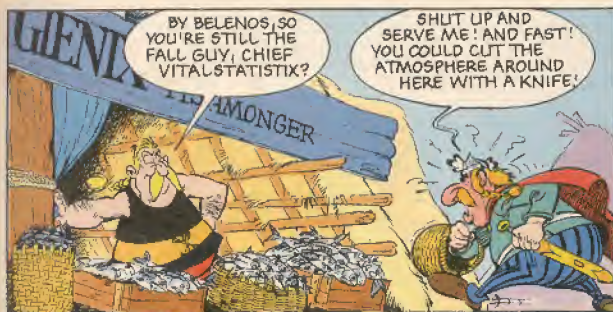
NO, WE SHIELD-BEARERS OPERATE A CLOSED SHOP!



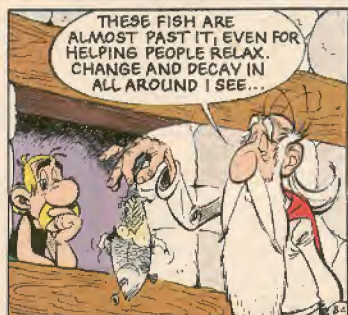
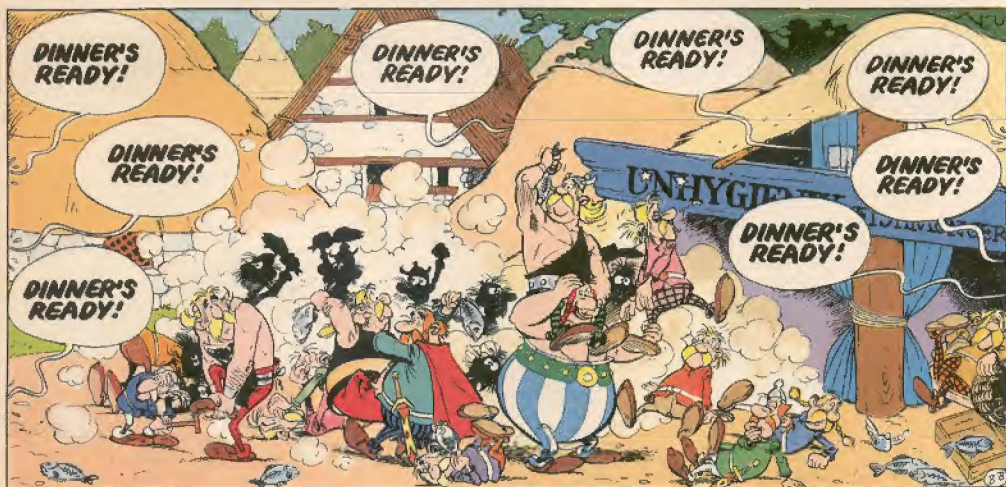
DOWNCAST AGAIN, PIGGYWIGGY? THINKING YOURSELF SO CLEVER... HUH! PIGS MIGHT FLY!



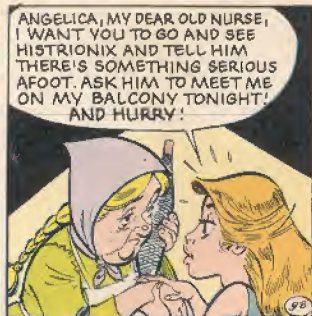
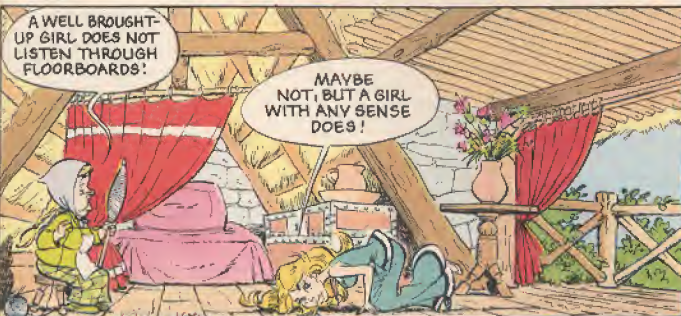
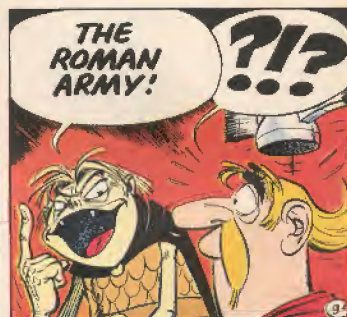
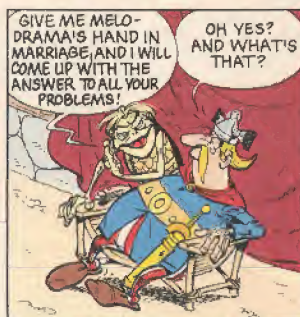
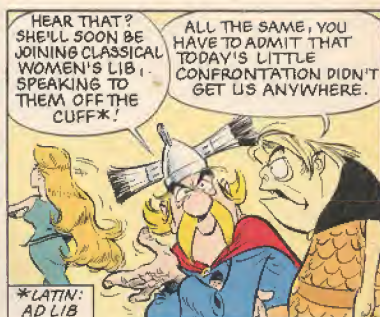














NIGHT HAS FALLEN, AND ALL IS  
CALM AGAIN IN THE VILLAGE.

TIME FOR  
BED, SCHIZO-  
PHRENIX!

COMING,  
DARLING!

CODFIX IS GOING  
TO ASK THE ROMANS TO  
HELP MAKE MY FATHER  
CHIEF OF THE WHOLE  
VILLAGE... AND IN RETURN  
MY FATHER HAS PROMISED  
HIM MY HAND IN  
MARRIAGE!

HOW DARE HE?!  
BUT I'M FROM THE  
OPPOSITE CAMP,  
MELODRAMA... WHY  
ARE YOU TELLING  
ME ALL THIS?

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE THE ONLY  
PERSON WITH ANY  
SENSE IN THIS CRAZY  
VILLAGE, AND I DON'T  
WANT TO MARRY COD-  
FIX! O HISTRIONIX,  
HISTRIONIX! WHERE-  
FORE ART THOU  
HISTRIONIX?

?

!?!

RAISE  
THE  
ALARM!

BONK!

ARE  
YOU HURT,  
HISTRIONIX?

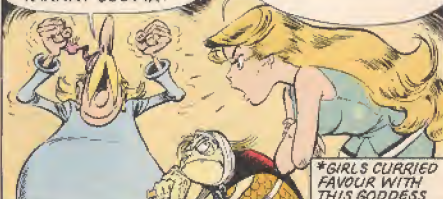
NO, I'M  
ALL RIGHT... I FANCY  
A PASSING SHOAL OF  
FISH BROKE MY  
FALL!

MY OWN DAUGHTER  
IN LEAGUE WITH THE  
ENEMY! TREACHERY LINDER  
MY OWN ROOF!



AND MY OWN FATHER  
ISN'T ASHAMED TO ASK THE  
ROMANS FOR HELP IN  
FIGHTING OUR OWN FRIENDS  
AND RELATIONS!

SHUT UP, YOU  
UNGRATEFUL CHILD!  
I'M GOING TO LOCK YOU  
IN YOUR ROOM, AND  
YOU DON'T COME OUT  
UNTIL THE DAY YOU  
MARRY CODFIX!



I NEVER WILL!  
I'D RATHER BE A  
VIRGIN SERVING VESTA\*  
ALL MY LIFE!

\*GIRLS CURRIED  
FAVOUR WITH  
THIS GODDESS

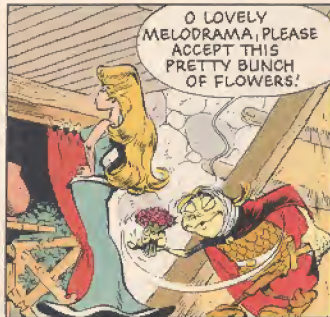
DON'T LET'S RUSH  
THIS MAJESTIX! TIME  
AND PATIENCE WILL  
ACHIEVE MORE THAN  
RAGE AND VIOLENCE  
EVER COULD!



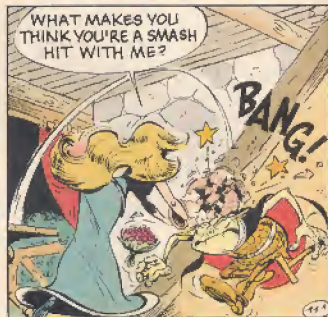
SOMETIMES  
I WONDER HOW  
I THINK THESE  
THINGS UP...



O LOVELY  
MELODRAMA, PLEASE  
ACCEPT THIS  
PRETTY BUNCH  
OF FLOWERS!



WHAT MAKES YOU  
THINK YOU'RE A SMASH  
HIT WITH ME?



MEANWHILE...

FATHER,  
WAKE UP!

HMPH?  
WHAT IS  
IT?



MAJESTIX AND HIS  
HENCHMAN CODFIX  
ARE PLANNING TO ASK  
THE ROMANS TO HELP  
THEM CONQUER THE  
WHOLE VILLAGE!



OH, ARE THEY?  
WELL, SON, I WANT  
YOU TO GO IN SEARCH OF  
MY OLD COMRADE-IN-  
ARMS VITALSTATISTIX.  
HE AND I FOUGHT  
TOGETHER AT  
GERGOVIA...

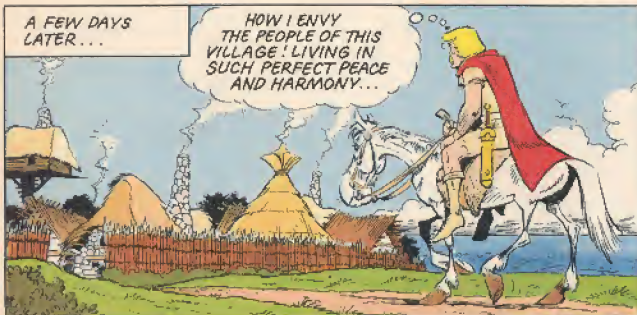
HE'S CHIEF OF A ARMORICAN  
VILLAGE A FEW DAYS' JOURNEY  
AWAY. THANKS TO THE DRUID  
GETAFIX'S MAGIC POTION,  
HE HAS KEPT THE WHOLE  
MIGHT OF CAESAR'S LEGIONS  
AT BAY! EXPLAIN IT ALL  
TO HIM, AND TELL HIM  
I NEED HIS HELP!





A FEW DAYS  
LATER...

HOW I ENVY  
THE PEOPLE OF THIS  
VILLAGE! LIVING IN  
SUCH PERFECT PEACE  
AND HARMONY...



YOU STUPID IGNORANT  
LOT! I'M NOT SELLING  
ANY MORE OF MY FISH  
TO THOSE WHO DON'T  
APPRECIATE ITS  
TRUE WORTH!

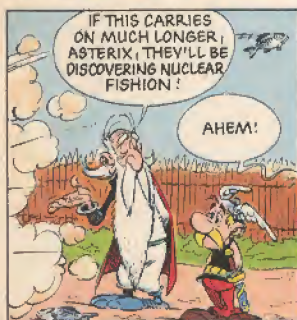
GOOD!!! THOSE WHO APPRECIATE  
ITS TRUE WORTH WILL TURN IT INTO  
GLUE, AND IT WON'T SMELL  
SO BAD!!!

?!



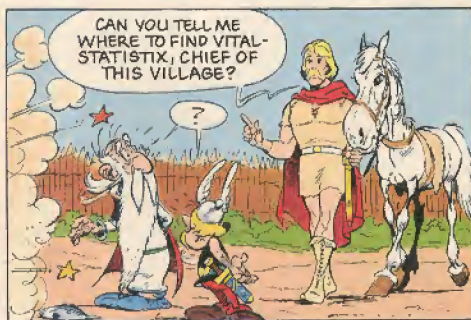
IF THIS CARRIES  
ON MUCH LONGER,  
ASTERIX, THEY'LL BE  
DISCOVERING NUCLEAR  
FISSION!

AHEM!



CAN YOU TELL ME  
WHERE TO FIND VITAL-  
STATISTIX, CHIEF OF  
THIS VILLAGE?

?



VITALSTATISTIX?  
HE'S ON HIS  
WAY!



STOP! AND  
THAT'S AN  
ORDER!



I'M  
GOING TO CRACK  
UP... I CAN FEEL IT  
COMING ON! YES...  
I'M GOING TO  
CRACK UP.



THIS  
IS IT! I'M  
CRACKING  
UP!





... AND THAT, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIK, IS THE SAD STORY OF OUR VILLAGE. ONLY YOUR DRUID GETAFIX'S MAGIC POTION AND THE WISDOM OF YOUR EXPERIENCED WARRIORS CAN SAVE US!

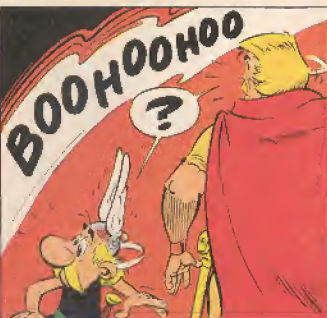


HMPH, YES. SPEAKING OF THE WISDOM OF MY EXPERIENCED WARRIORS, I SOMEHOW FEEL I SHOULD BE PUTTING MY OWN HOUSE IN ORDER FIRST...

... SINCE THE ROMANS LOOK LIKE GETTING MIXED UP IN YOUR AFFAIRS, I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULDN'T LEND MY OLD COMRADE-IN-ARMS CLEVERDIX A HAND!



THANK YOU... AND ON MY OWN BEHALF TOO! UNLESS WE FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, MELODRAMA AND I CAN NEVER HOPE TO BE UNITED!



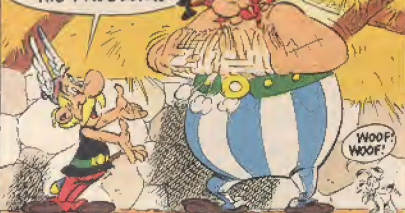
WHAT'S THE MATTER, OBELIX?

SNIFF! I GET ALL UPSET BY LOVE STORIES WITH UNHAPPY ENDINGS! SNIFF!



BUT THIS STORY'S ONLY JUST BEGINNING, AND IF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIK WILL LET US, WE'RE GOING TO HELP HISTRIXIX SOLVE HIS PROBLEMS!

OOH, YES, LET'S! GOODY, GOODY, GOODY!



THE ROMANS AROUND HERE ARE KEEPING VERY QUIET JUST NOW, SO I THINK I CAN JOIN THE EXPEDITION MYSELF! THE PEOPLE OF YOUR VILLAGE MAY NEED ME TO HELP THEM BRIDGE THE GREAT DIVIDE!



AND A LITTLE LATER...

WILL HE SING? WON'T HE SING? WILL HE SING? WON'T HE SING?





IN THE ROMAN CAMP  
NEAR THE DIVIDED  
VILLAGE...

HEY,  
SOURPUS,  
I'LL SWAP YOU  
TWO SENTRY  
DUTIES FOR  
ONE LAUNDRY  
FATIGUE!

NOTHING  
DOING: YOU ALREADY  
OWE ME THREE COOK-  
HOUSE FATIGUES AND  
TWO LATRINE  
FATIGUES!



BACK AT THE  
RECRUITMENT OFFICE,  
THEY TOLD US WE'D  
GET BEAUTIFUL SLAVE-  
GIRLS FROM THE  
COUNTRIES WE CON-  
QUERED...

BACK IN ROME, CAESAR  
SAID HE WAS COUNTING  
ON US TO CLEAN UP THE  
BARBARIANS... WHAT  
A WASH-OUT!

LOOT, THEY SAID.  
THE CARROT FOR  
THE DONKEY!

IT'S A MAN'S  
LIFE IN THE ARMY.  
THEY SAID...

ALL RIGHT,  
WE KNOW  
WE KNOW



DECURION INFECTIUS  
VIRUS, THIS TENT IS A PIGSTY,  
AND THE COOKING IN THE CAMP  
IS GOING FROM BAD TO  
WORSE!

I KNOW. THE COOKHOUSE IS RE-  
VOLTING, O CENTURION UMBRAGEOUS  
CUMULONIMBUS. THERE'S A MOOD  
OF GENERAL UNREST. THE MEN WANT  
SLAVES TO DO THE DIRTY WORK, BUT  
CAESAR SAID WE WEREN'T TO  
TAKE SLAVES DURING THE  
ROMAN PEACE!



WISH I'D BROUGHT  
MY SLAVEGIRL FROM  
HOME... NICE LITTLE  
ROMAN PIECEK,  
SHE IS!

\*PAX  
ROMANA



CENTURION,  
I HAVE THE ANSWER  
TO ALL YOUR  
PROBLEMS!



WHO LET  
YOU INTO  
THIS CAMP,  
GAUL?

THE MAN ON DUTY  
AT THE GATE. HE WAS QUITE  
HAPPY WHEN I OFFERED  
HIM A SLAVE IN  
EXCHANGE!



WHO ARE  
YOU, ANYWAY?  
HOW DARE YOU  
CORRUPT MY  
LEGIONARIES?

I'M FROM  
MAJESTIX, RIGHT-  
FUL CHIEF OF THE  
RIGHT SIDE OF OUR  
VILLAGE. I'M HIS  
ALTER EGO AND  
RIGHT HAND!



AND THIS  
IS MY LEFT FOOT!  
BE OFF, OR I'LL  
ALTER YOUR EGO!

CHIEF  
MAJESTIX WANTS  
YOU TO HELP HIM PUT  
DOWN A REBELLION  
LED BY  
CLEVERDIX!



THAT'S NONE OF MY  
BUSINESS: THIS IS YOUR NUNC  
DIMITTIS... GET OUT, OR YOU'LL BE  
SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE. A  
FUNERAL DIRGE FROM  
HYMNS ANCIENT!

\*HYMNS MODERN  
AS YET UNWRITTEN





HOLD ON A MOMENT, CENTURION! YOU HELP MY CHIEF, CLEVERDIX AND HIS MEN WILL BE CONQUERED... SO YOU CAN MAKE THEM YOUR **SLAVES**! YOUR LEGIONARIES ARE VERY KEEN ON HAVING SLAVES!



AND WHAT ABOUT CAESAR'S ORDERS, EH, GAUL?



NEVER MIND THAT, ROMAN! JUST THINK: HALF THE VILLAGE FIGHTING FOR YOU, THE OTHER HALF SERVING YOU AS SLAVES!

THAT'S ALL A LOAD OF COB! I'VE GOT OTHER FISH TO FRY. GET MOVING BEFORE I PUT YOU ON FATIGUES YOURSELF!



RESTORE OUR DIFFERENTIALS! GIVE US SLAVES!

'LEGIONARIES' LIB!

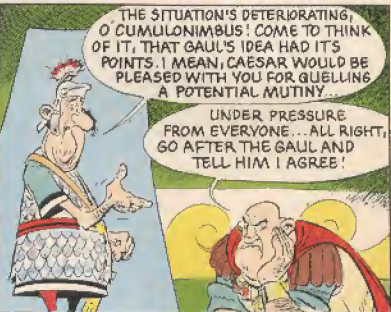
NO MORE CHORES!

SCRUB THOSE SCRUBBING BRUSHES!

?!

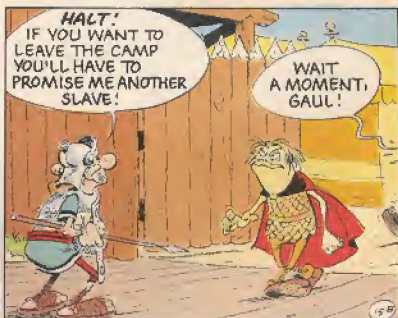
THE SITUATION'S DETERIORATING, O CUMULONIMBUS! COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT GAUL'S IDEA HAD ITS POINTS. I MEAN, CAESAR WOULD BE PLEASED WITH YOU FOR QUELLING A POTENTIAL MUTINY...

UNDER PRESSURE FROM EVERYONE... ALL RIGHT, GO AFTER THE GAUL AND TELL HIM I AGREE!



**HALT!** IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE CAMP YOU'LL HAVE TO PROMISE ME ANOTHER SLAVE!

WAIT A MOMENT, GAUL!



GO AND TELL YOUR CHIEF THAT WE'LL GIVE HIM THE HELP HE WANTS. JUST LET US HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO OUR LEGIONARIES!



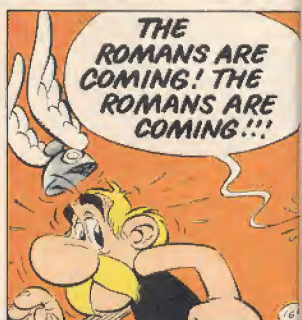
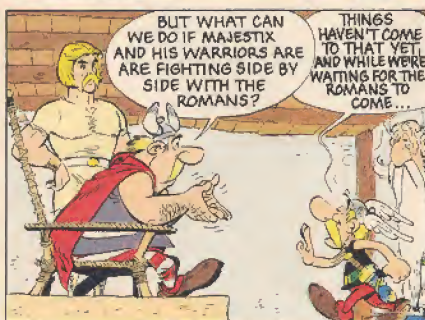
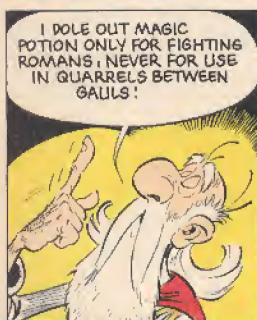
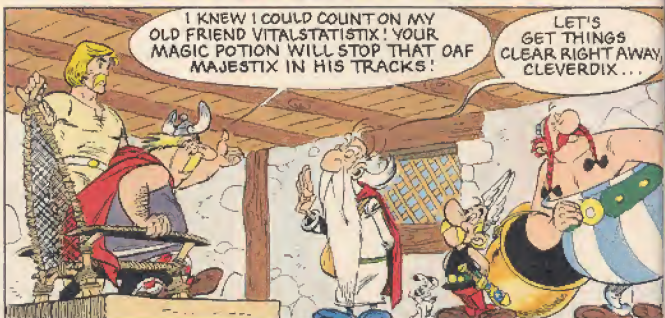
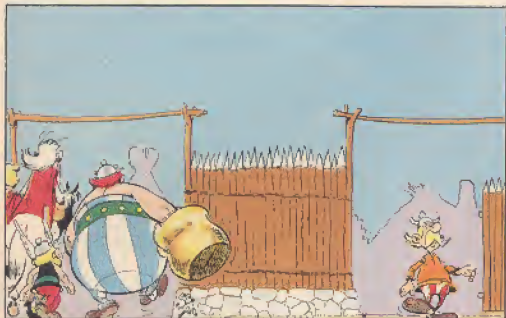
HO, HO! MY VILLAINY KNOWS NO BOUNDS! AND I'M NOT THROUGH YET, BECAUSE WHEN I'VE MARRIED THE BEAUTIFUL MELODRAMA, IT WILL BE EASY ENOUGH FOR ME TO DEPOSE THAT FOOL MAJESTIX AND BECOME CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE MYSELF!



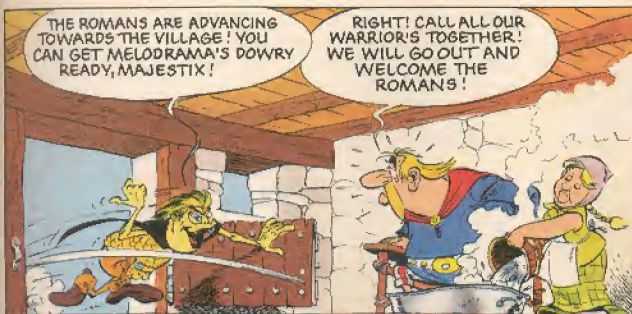
FUNNY, I COULD HAVE SWORN I SMELT SOMETHING FISHY!





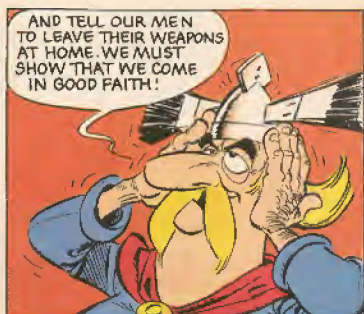






THE ROMANS ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS THE VILLAGE! YOU CAN GET MELODRAMA'S DOWRY READY, MAJESTIX!

RIGHT! CALL ALL OUR WARRIOR'S TOGETHER! WE WILL GO OUT AND WELCOME THE ROMANS!

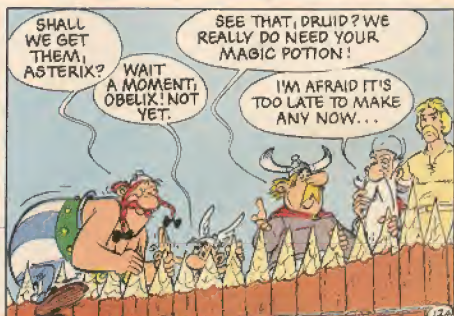


AND TELL OUR MEN TO LEAVE THEIR WEAPONS AT HOME. WE MUST SHOW THAT WE COME IN GOOD FAITH!



HURRAH! OFF TO THE SLAVE MARKET! I'M SLAVERING WITH ANTICIPATION!

YEAH! NO MORE FATIGUES FOR US, AND I'M HANDING BACK THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES YOU SWAPPED ME FOR ONE COOKHOUSE FATIGUE!



SHALL WE GET THEM, ASTERIX?

WAIT A MOMENT, OBELIX! NOT YET.

SEE THAT, DRUID? WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR MAGIC POTION!

I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LATE TO MAKE ANY NOW...



WELCOME, O ROMAN! OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR VALUABLE ASSISTANCE KNOWS NO BOUNDS; AND...

CUT THE CACKLE! WHERE ARE THE SLAVES?



SLAVES? WHAT SLAVES!!!

THE SLAVES YOUR FISH-FACED FRIEND PROMISED IN THE SMALL PRINT OF THE CONTRACT!



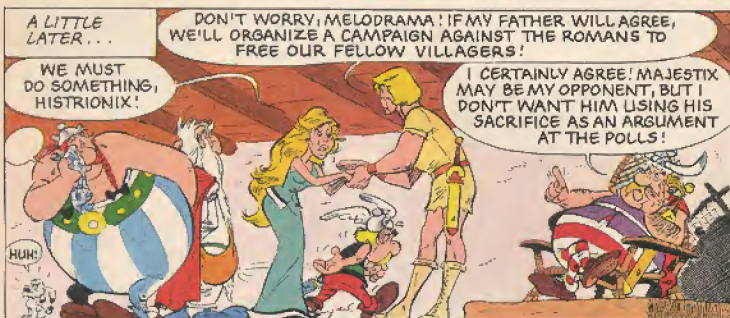
GAULS NEVER, NEVER, NEVER WILL BE SLAVES! I SHALL BE CHIEF OF EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WITHOUT EXCEPTION, AND WITHOUT SLAVES!

YOU DON'T GO CALLING OUT THE ROMAN ARMY FOR NOTHING! MEN, GRAB HOLD OF THIS LOT! THEY CAN BE OUR SLAVES THEMSELVES!



HELP! THAT FOOL MAJESTIX HAS RUINED EVERYTHING!







IN THE ROMAN CAMP...

WE WILL NEVER BE YOUR SLAVES, ROMAN!

DO YOU KNOW THE PENALTIES FOR A SLAVES' REVOLT? YOU'D BETTER STOP AND THINK, UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS AT ROME A SQUARE MEAL!

AND WHILE THEY'RE THINKING, CHAIN THEM ALL UP WELL!!!

CAN I HAVE THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES BACK? THE ONES YOU SWAPPOED FOR MY COOKHOUSE FATIGUE!

PRICES HAVE RISEN... IT'LL BE FOUR SENTRY DUTIES NOW!

MEANWHILE...

GOOD LUCK, FRIENDS!

DON'T WORRY, MELODRAMA! THANKS TO GETAFIX'S KNOW-HOW, OBELIX'S STRENGTH, DOGMATIX'S NOSE AND MY CUNNING, WE'LL SOON HAVE YOUR FATHER HOME!

FUNNY HOW SURE OF THEMSELVES CLEVERDIX'S ALLIES SEEM. I'LL FOLLOW THE AT A SAFE DISTANCE!

DOGMATIX HAS BEEN SNIFFING ABOUT EVER SINCE WE LEFT. I THINK HE'S PICKED UP THE SCENT OF A BOAR!

NO, NO, IT'S JUST A RED HERRING.

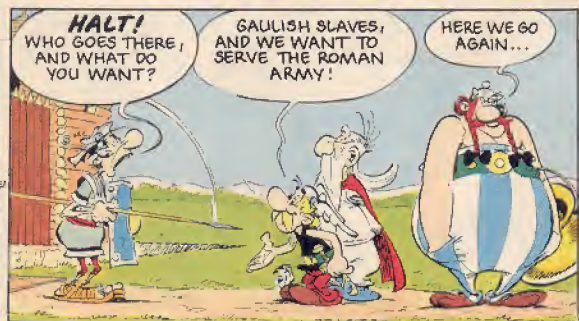
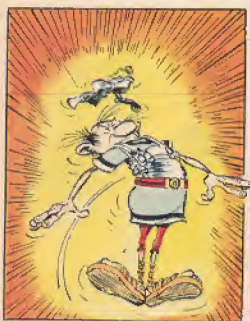
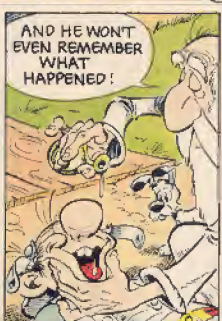
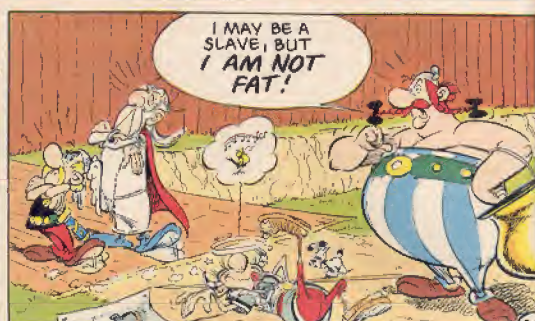
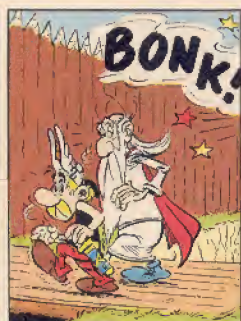
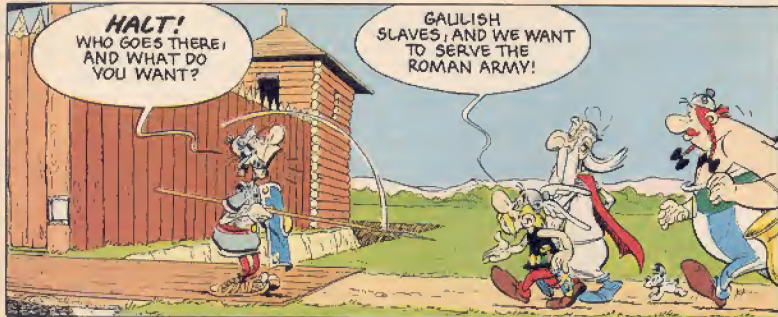
IF SO, IT'S BEEN TAKING CODLIVER OIL!

RIGHT, YOU GET THE IDEA, OBELIX? WE'RE HUMBLE SLAVES, SO NO THUMPING THE ROMANS!

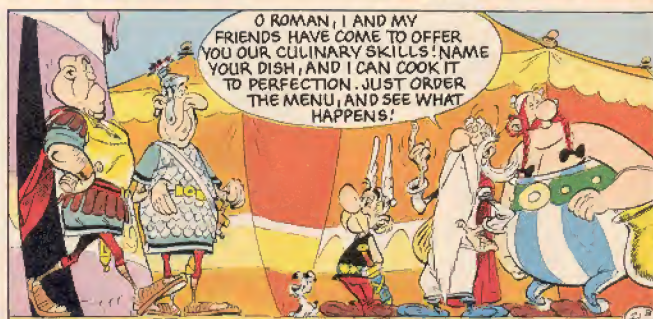
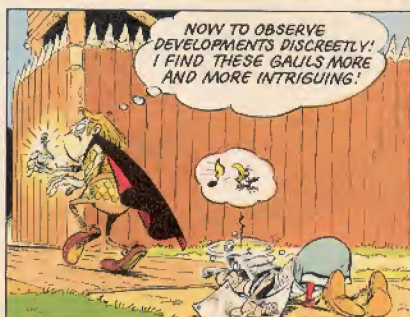
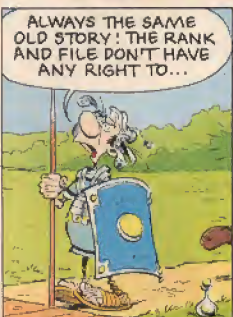
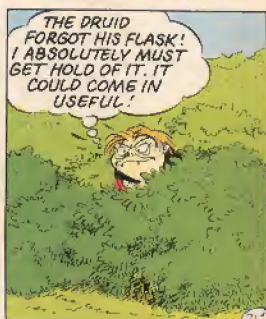
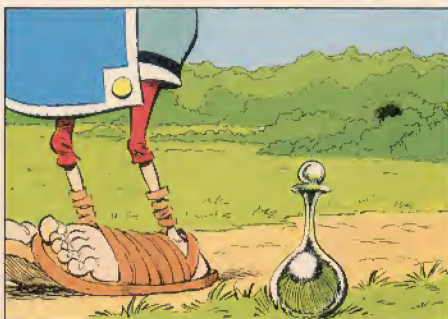
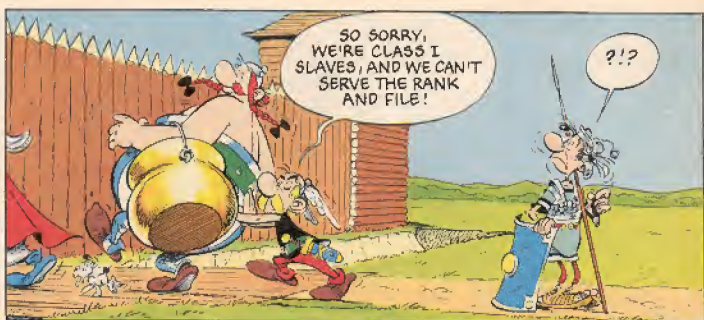
LISTEN, ASTERIX...

...IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A SLAVE-DOG?











THE GODS MUST HAVE SENT YOU, GAUL! A SPOT OF GOOD COOKING WILL CERTAINLY MAKE A CHANGE FROM THE USUAL MESS!

OH, WE CAN COOK A GOOD MEAL FOR ALL YOUR MEN, CENTURION! THE FEAST OF THE CENTURY, AS YOU MIGHT SAY!

FOR STARTERS, A FORTIFYING SOUP. THE MEAT COURSE... A REALLY NICE CUT! SAY CHUMP CHOP, STEWED IN YOUR... I MEAN, IN ITS OWN JUICE. AND WE WON'T MAKE A HASH OF IT. IF YOU FANCY POULTRY, WE CAN COOK YOUR GOOSE FOR YOU! GAME FOR ANYTHING? THEN GROUSE AND QUAIL, AFTER THAT, YOU GET YOUR DESSERTS: A FOOL, WELL BEATEN, PERHAPS SOME INSTANT WHIP, AND A FEW RASPBERRIES. ALL WASHED DOWN WITH THE GAULISH BEER WE CALL WALLOP... IT PACKS QUITE A PUNCH!

THAT'LL DO FINE! GET ON WITH IT... I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

WE SHAN'T TAKE LONG!

LOOK HERE, GETAFIX, WHY DON'T WE ADD A FEW NICE ROAST BOARS?

?! WHY NOT GO AND CHOP UP SOME KINDLING FOR THE FIRE, OBELIX?

WELL, I ONLY THOUGHT HE'D GONE AND FORGOTTEN THE BOARS...

CHOP! CHOP! CHOP! CHOP!

AMAZING! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE CHOP WOOD LIKE THAT BEFORE!

OH, THAT'S NOTHING! I COULD CUT A WHOLE TREE DOWN THAT WAY, ONLY DOGMATIX WOULDN'T LIKE IT!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

READY IN A MOMENT!

I'M A BIT WORRIED, CENTURION! A COUSIN OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS, AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIUS VIRUS. WE MUST BE CAREFUL!

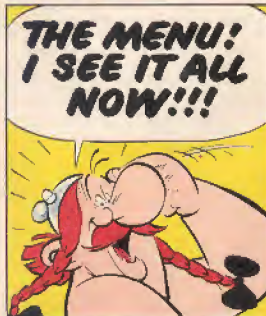
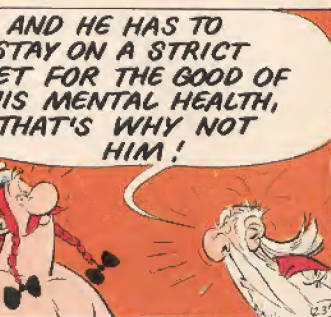
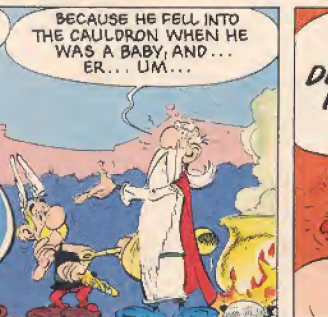
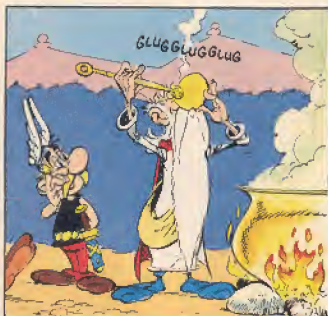
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TASTE THE SOUP FOR SEASONING, CENTURION?

JUST A MOMENT, GAUL! HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO POISON THE GARRISON, SO AS TO SET THE PRISONERS FREE?

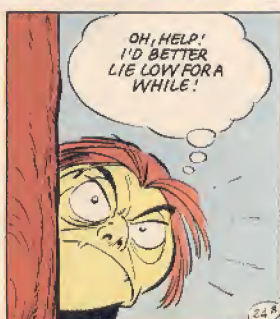
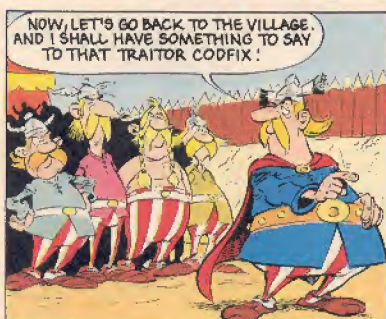
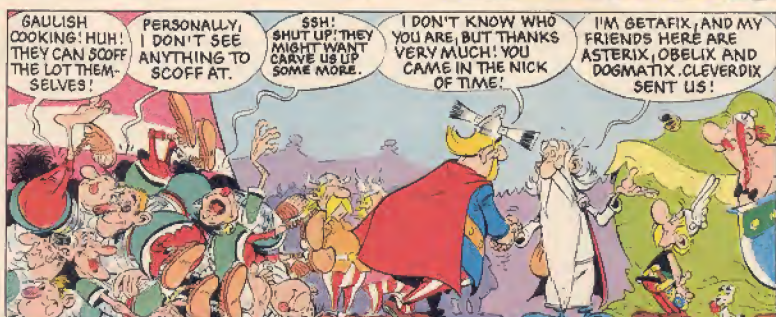
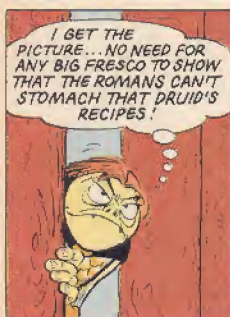
I QUITE UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS. YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND YOURSELF IN THE SOUP. SO WE'LL DRINK SOME OURSELVES, TO SHOW IT'S ALL RIGHT!

AND TO PROVE IT EVEN MORE CONCLUSIVELY, WE'LL GIVE SOME TO THE PRISONERS TOO!

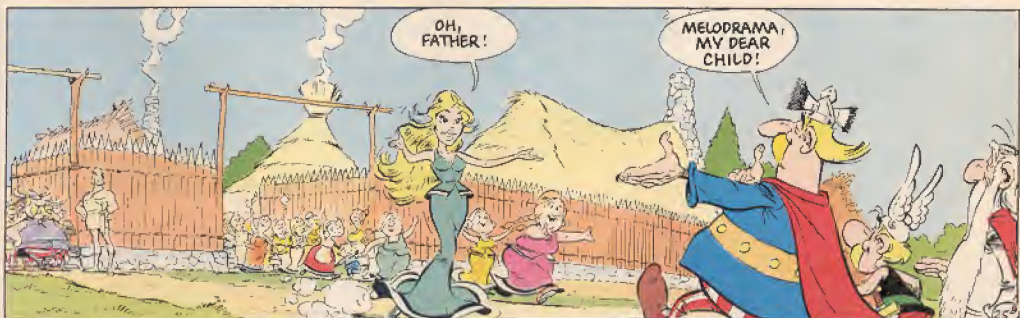
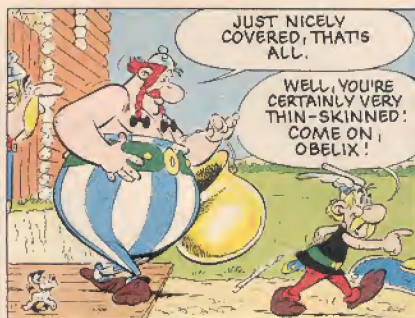
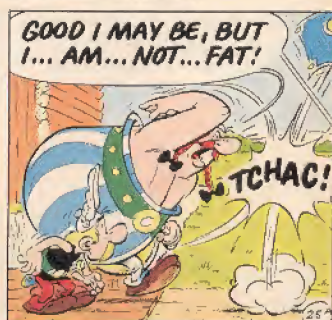
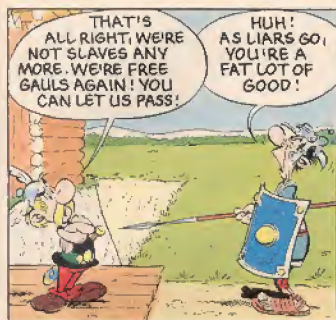




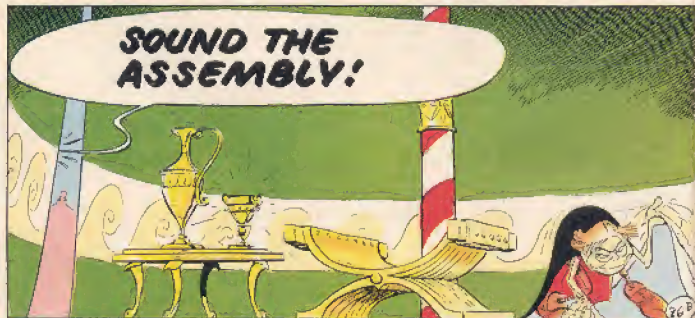
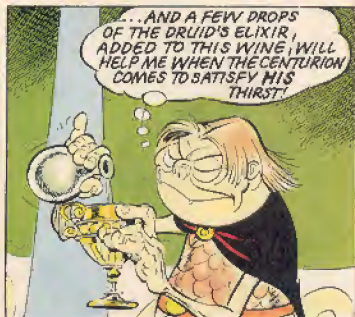
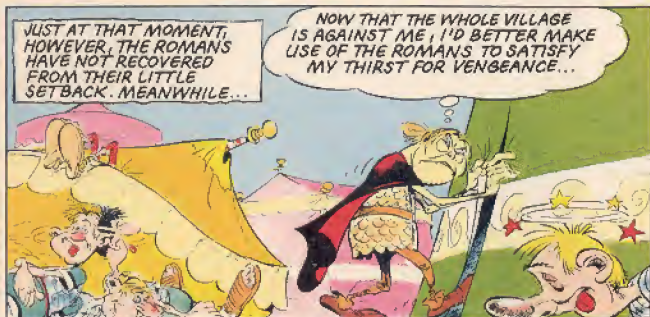
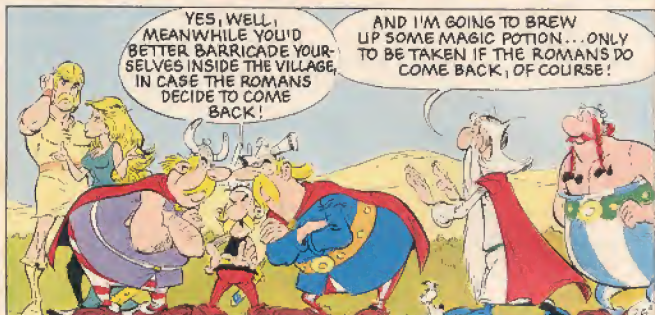
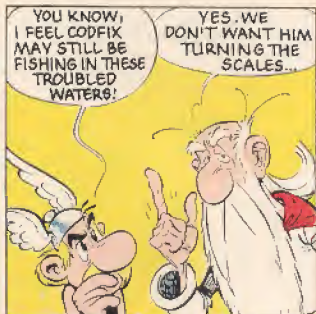
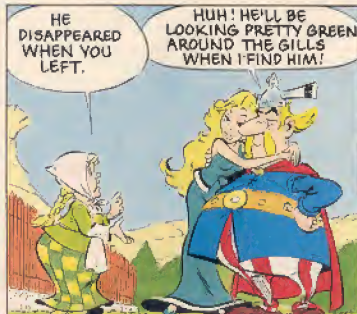














**RIGHT! WE SHALL NOW FORGET THIS WHOLE UNFORTUNATE EPISODE AND CLEAR UP THE MESS! I WANT THE GARRISON ALL SPRUCED UP AND LOOKING LIKE A CENA CANIS!\* DISMISS!**

\*LATIN: DOG'S DINNER

WHAT'S CENA CANIS?

DOG LATIN, YOU IDIOT!

AH, A NICE GOBLET OF WINE WILL HELP ME FORGET MY TROUBLES!

GLUG!  
GLUG!  
GLUG!

AAAH! BY JUPITER, I'M FEELING ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

?! WHO ARE YOU, GAUL, AND WHO LET YOU INTO THIS CAMP?

IT'S WORKING!

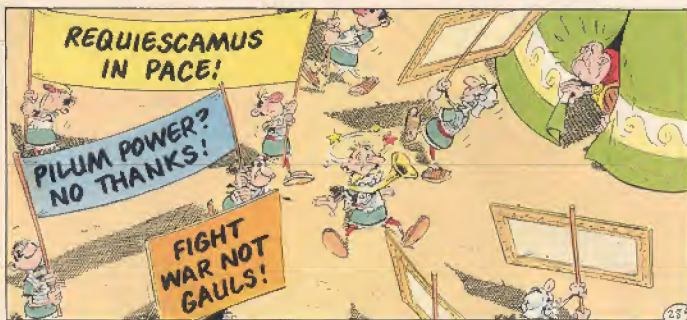
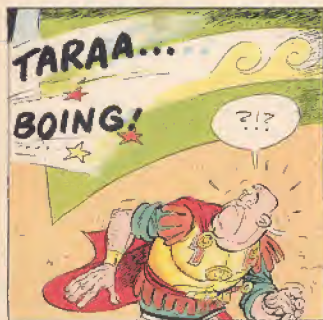
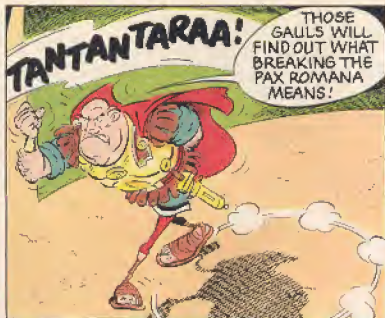
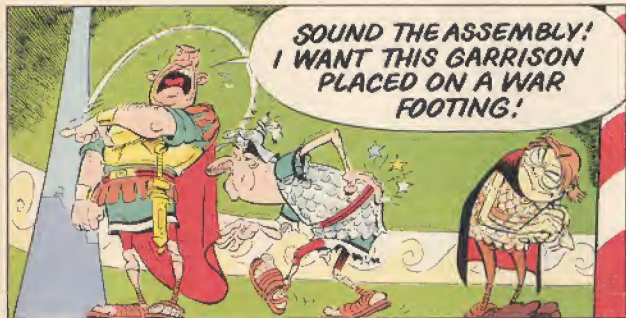
I'VE COME TO WARN YOU, O CENTURION! THE GAULS OF THE NEARBY VILLAGE HAVE BROKEN THE PAX ROMANA! THEY'VE BASHED UP YOUR LEGIONARIES AND RANSACKED YOUR CAMP!

IMPOSSIBLE! OR ARE YOU GIVING ME SOME INSIDE DOPE?

O CUMULONIMBUS, THE MEN DON'T WANT TO CLEAR UP THE MESS! THEY'RE ALL REPORTING SICK!

SICK BAY







AND LATER...

I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE, GAUL, BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME UNGRATEFUL FOR SERVICES RENDERED!

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER, ONCE YOU'VE DONE FOR THE VILLAGE AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS.

BUT WATCH OUT! THERE'S A DRUID WITH THEM, AND HE HAS A POTION WHICH MAKES ANYONE WHO DRINKS IT INVINCIBLE!

CENTURIUS, A COUSIN OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID THERE WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS, AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIUS VIRUS! WE MUST BE CAREFUL!

MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

THE MAGIC POTION'S READY. WE'D BETTER PUT IT SAFE ON NEUTRAL GROUND SOMEWHERE WHILE WE WAIT TO SEE IF THE ROMANS ARE COMING BACK!

SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS NEUTRAL GROUND. IT'S BANG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE.

YES, LET'S PUT IT THERE. THAT FOOL SCHIZOPHRENIX HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE HE'S ON!

DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK OF PUTTING FLOOR-BOARDS DOWN OVER THE GAP?

THAT'S FLOORED HIM! WE'LL DO IT NOW.

AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...

I'LL WATCH OVER THE CAULDRON TONIGHT, TO MAKE DOUBLY SURE!

THEN YOU'D BETTER HAVE THIS GOURD OF MAGIC POTION ASTERIX. YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU MIGHT NEED A BOOSTER DOSE, IN SPIITE OF THE POTION IN THE CAULDRON.



AND THAT NIGHT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE WOOD NEAR THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

I DON'T TRUST THAT  
DRUID AND HIS SECRET  
WEAPONS! I THINK I'D  
BETTER GO SCOUTING  
AHEAD BEFORE WE  
ATTACK!

AND WHATEVER  
YOU DO, DON'T MOVE  
TILL I GET  
BACK!

RIGHT, BUT  
HURRY UP! I CAN'T  
WAIT TO GET MY  
REVENGE ON THOSE  
GAULS!



THE GODS OF  
THE UNDERWORLD  
ARE ON MY SIDE! IT'S  
THAT FOOL CONSENTAL-  
IDIOTIX ON SENTRY  
DUTY! I'LL SOON DEAL  
WITH HIM!

**HALT! WHO  
GOES THERE?**

IT'S ME.  
CODFIX.

I MIGHT  
HAVE KNOWN  
FROM THE SMELL!  
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT?

I WANT TO  
ASK CHIEF  
MAJESTIX  
TO FORGIVE  
ME!

YOU CAN COME IN, BUT IF  
I WERE YOU I'D KEEP MY  
DISTANCE FROM MAJESTIX!

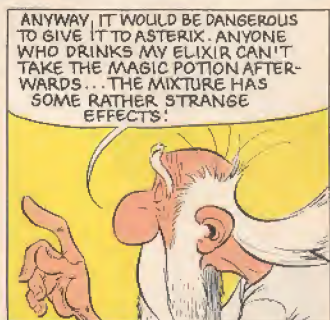
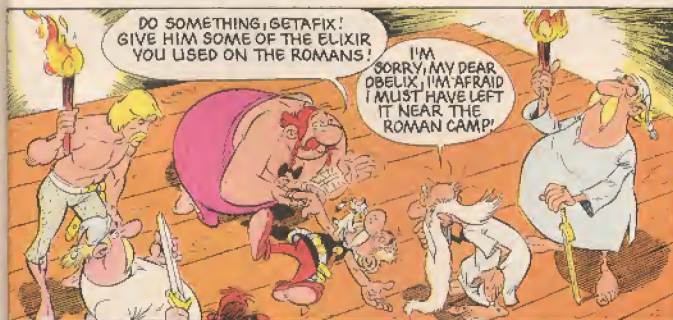
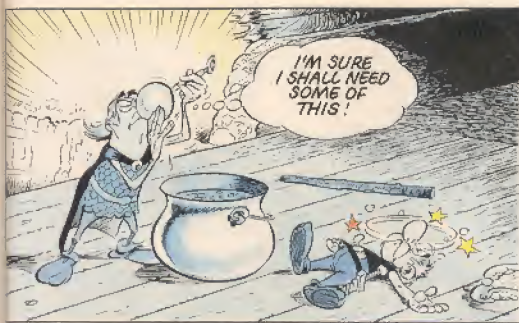
WHY ARE YOU  
MOUNTING GUARD  
LIKE THIS? WHAT  
ARE YOU AFRAID  
OF?

WE'RE AFRAID THE ROMANS  
MAY COME BACK. BUT LUCKILY  
GETAFIX THE DRUID HAS MADE  
US SOME OF HIS MAGIC POTION.  
IT'S SAFE IN SCHIZO-  
PHRENIX'S HUT!

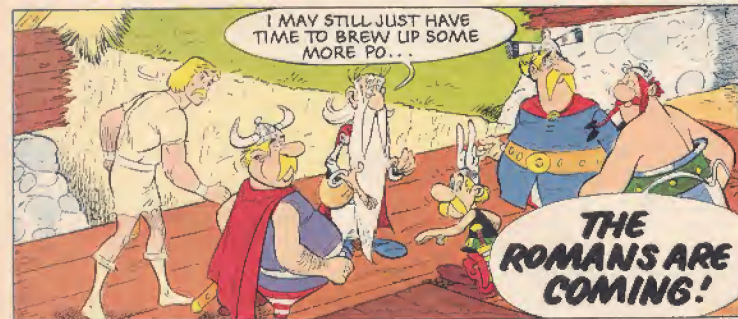
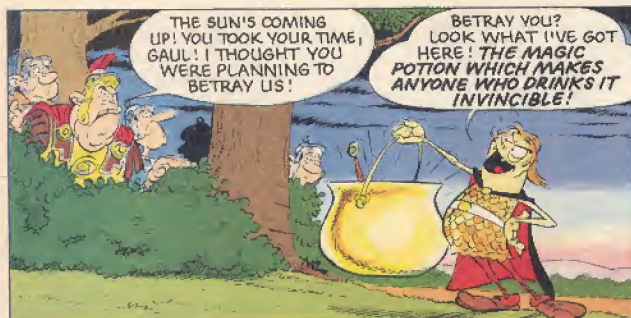
TEEHEE!













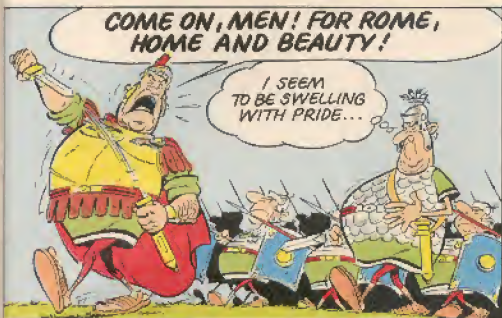


I THINK WE'RE IN FOR SOME MORE FUN, ASTERIX!



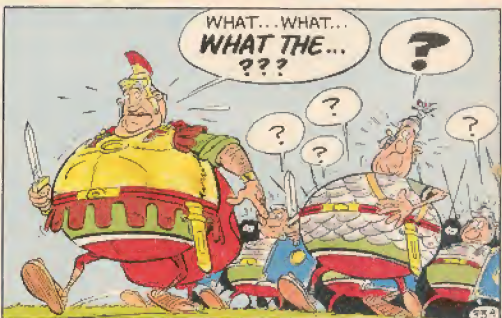
WELL, THE ROMANS HAVE DRUNK THE MAGIC POTION, OBELIX. THAT MEANS WE MUST HANDLE THEM MORE CAREFULLY!

DON'T WORRY, ASTERIX. I'LL HANDLE THE ROMANS EVER SO CAREFULLY!



COME ON, MEN! FOR ROME, HOME AND BEAUTY!

I SEEM TO BE SWELLING WITH PRIDE...



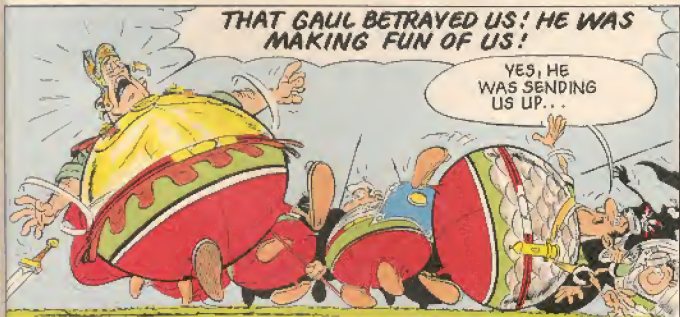
WHAT...WHAT... WHAT THE... ???

?

?

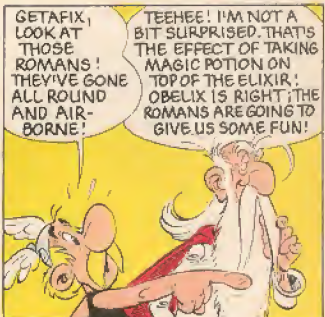
?

?



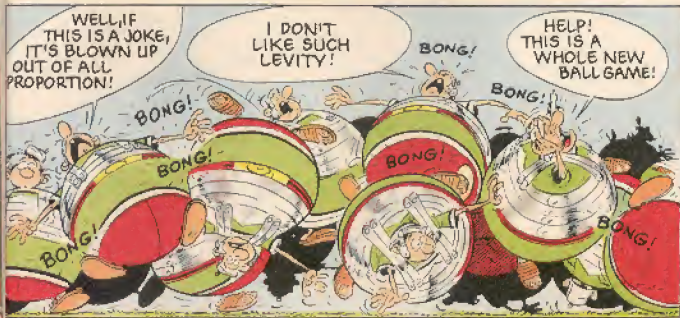
THAT GAUL BETRAYED US! HE WAS MAKING FUN OF US!

YES, HE WAS SENDING US UP...



GETAFIX, LOOK AT THOSE ROMANS! THEY'VE GONE ALL ROUND AND AIR-BORNE!

TEEHEE! I'M NOT A BIT SURPRISED. THAT'S THE EFFECT OF TAKING MAGIC POTION ON TOP OF THE ELIXIR. OBELIX IS RIGHT! THE ROMANS ARE GOING TO GIVE US SOME FUN!



WELL, IF THIS IS A JOKE, IT'S BLOWN UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION!

I DON'T LIKE SUCH LEVITY!

BONG!

BONG!

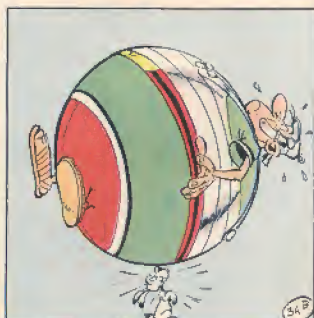
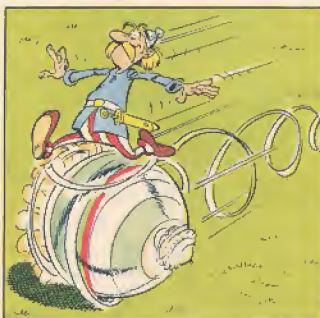
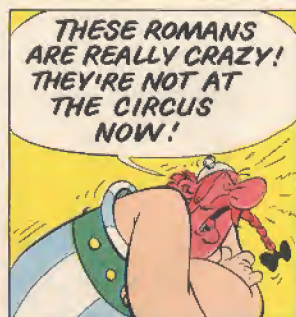
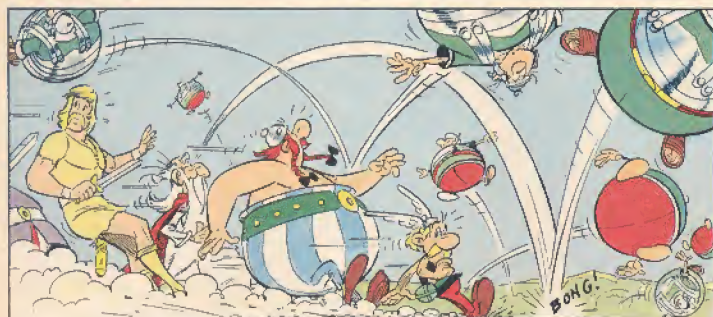
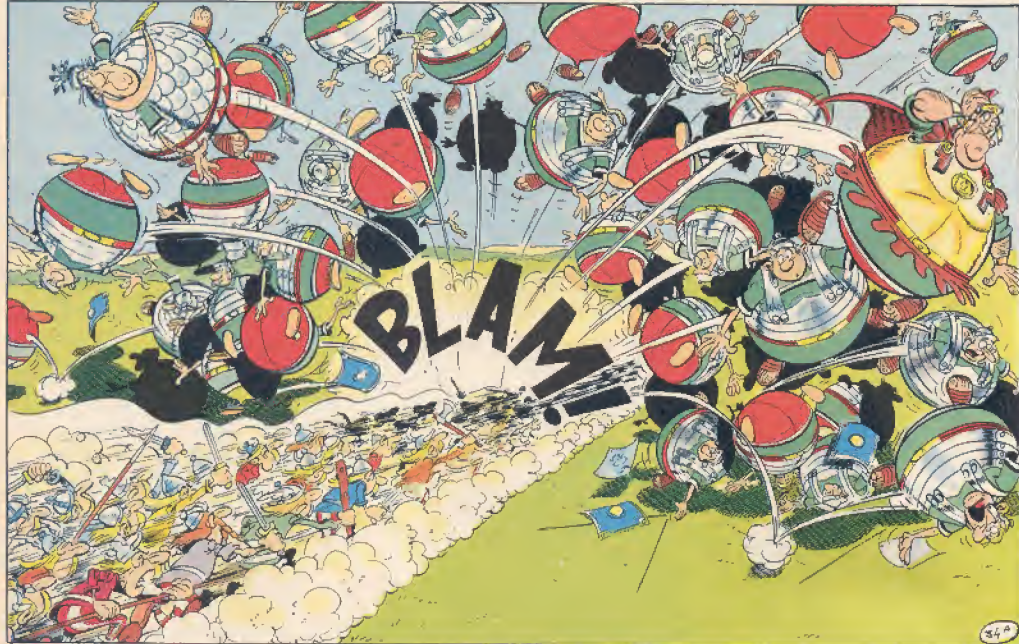
HELP! THIS IS A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME!

BONG!

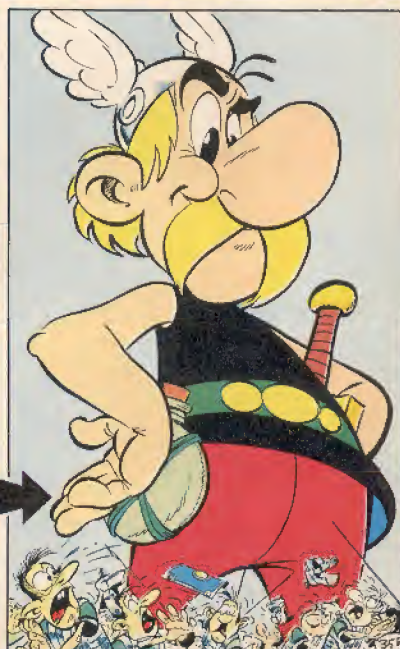
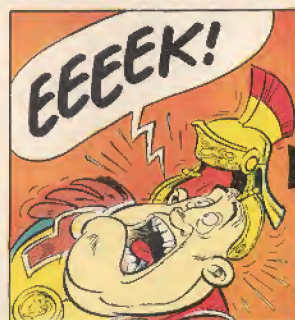
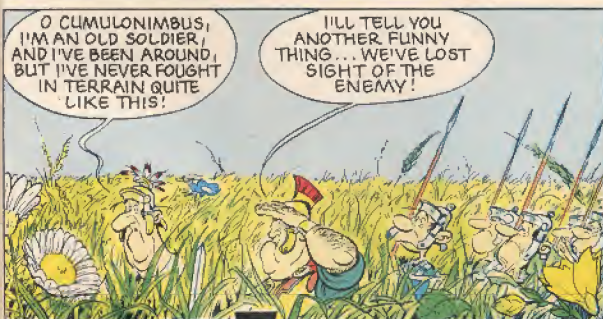
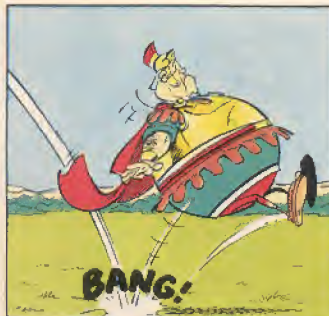
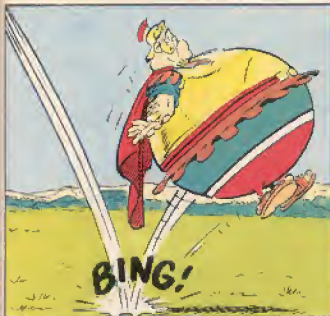


COME ON, CHARGE!

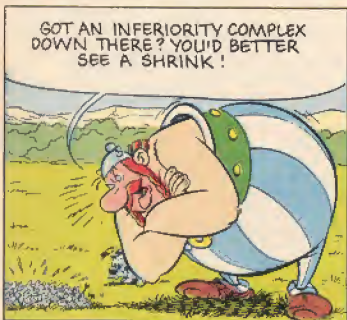
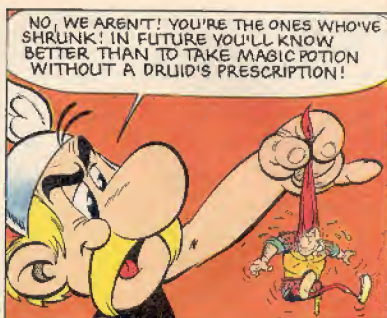
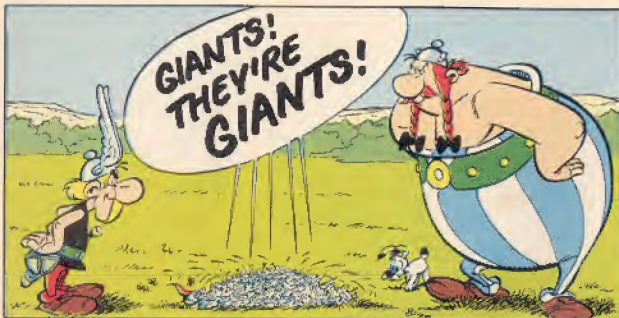














"WELL, MY DEAR OBELIX, YOU STARTED QUITE A TRAIN OF EVENTS WITH THAT PUNCH YOU GAVE THE SENTRY OUTSIDE THE ROMAN CAMP... AND THE ENEMY LOST OUT!"

YOU MEAN I DID IT?



ER... MAJESTIX, NOW WE'VE DEALT WITH THE ROMANS, I... THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU...

JUST A MOMENT, MY BOY! DON'T FORGET YOUR FATHER AND I STILL HAVE TO SETTLE OUR ARGUMENT, AND...



**MAJESTIX!  
MAJESTIX!**

?!



CODFIX HAS KIDNAPPED MELODRAMA! HE LEFT THIS ROLL OF PARCHMENT ADDRESSED TO YOU!

**THE DOUBLE-DEALING TRAITOR!**

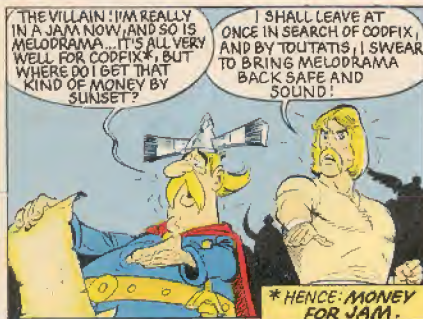


IF YOU WANT TO SEE MELODRAMA AGAIN, LEAVE 100 POUNDS IN GOLD NEAR THE DOLMEN BY THE SPRING BEFORE SUNSET.  
*Codfix*

THE VILLAIN! I'M REALLY IN A JAM NOW, AND SO IS MELODRAMA... IT'S ALL VERY WELL FOR CODFIX, BUT WHERE DO I GET THAT KIND OF MONEY BY SUNSET?

I SHALL LEAVE AT ONCE IN SEARCH OF CODFIX, AND BY TOUTATIS, I SWEAR TO BRING MELODRAMA BACK SAFE AND SOUND!

\*HENCE: MONEY FOR JAM.



OBELIX AND I WILL GO WITH YOU...

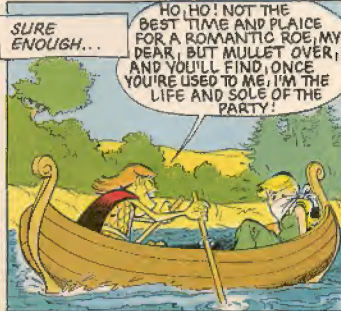


SO WILL DOGMATIX! LOOK, HE'S ALREADY PICKED UP THE SCENT! HE'S MAKING STRAIGHT FOR THE RIVER!

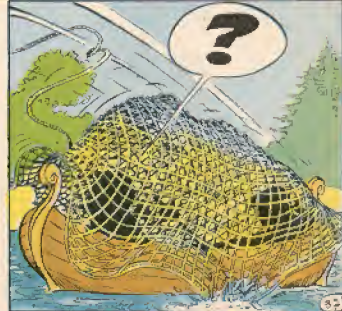


SURE ENOUGH...

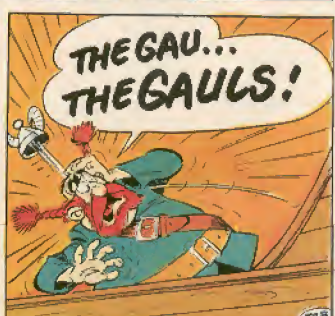
HO, HO! NOT THE BEST TIME AND PLACE FOR A ROMANTIC ROE, MY DEAR, BUT MULLET OVER, AND YOU'LL FIND, ONCE YOU'RE USED TO ME, I'M THE LIFE AND SOLE OF THE PARTY!



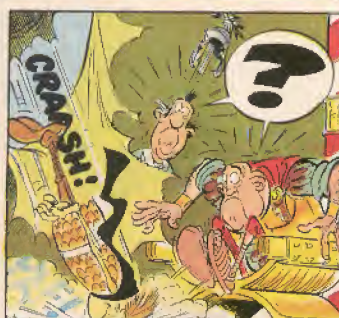
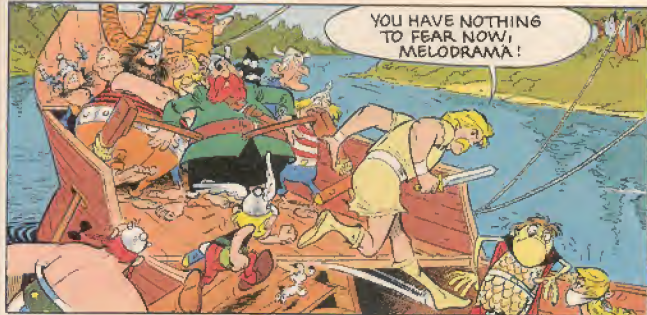
?













MEANWHILE...

SUNK IN SALT WATER...  
SUNK IN FRESH WATER...  
ALL THE WATER I EVER  
WANT AGAIN IS A NIP OF  
AGUA VITAE!

YOU'RE  
GETTING THE  
LINGO NICELY...YES,  
IT'S TERRA FIRMA  
FOR ME, TOO.

QUICK, LET'S GO AND  
SET MAJESTIX'S MIND  
AT REST!

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE SUCH  
AS THIS, IT IS ONLY RIGHT TO  
FORGET OUR DIFFERENCES, AND  
I FEEL FOR YOU, MAJESTIX!

THEY'RE  
BACK, WITH  
MELODRAMA!

OH, FATHER,  
HISTRIONIX ACTED  
LIKE A TRUE  
CHIEF!

I'M EXTREMELY  
GRATEFUL TO  
HISTRIONIX FOR HIS  
BRAVE ACTION, BUT  
THAT'S GOING A BIT  
TOO FAR, MY  
DEAR!

OH NO, IT ISN'T.  
AFTER ALL, HIS-  
TRIONIX IS THE  
SON OF A  
CHIEF!

SON OF A  
CHIEF MY FOOT!!!  
I'M THE ONLY  
REAL CHIEF  
AROUND  
HERE!

OH, FOR GOODNESS'S SAKE, WE'VE  
HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! IF YOU MUST  
FIGHT FOR THE CHIEFTAINSHIP, KEEP  
IT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU!!!

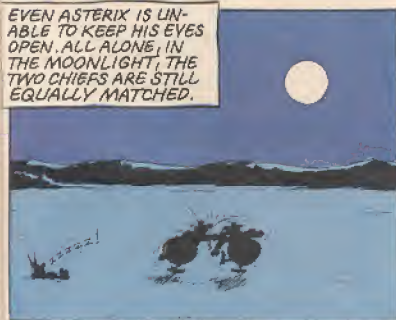
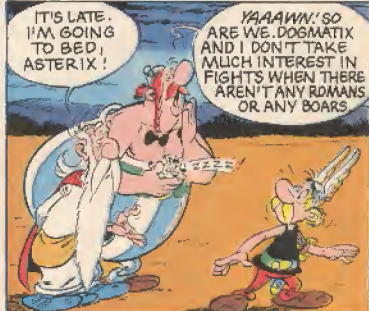
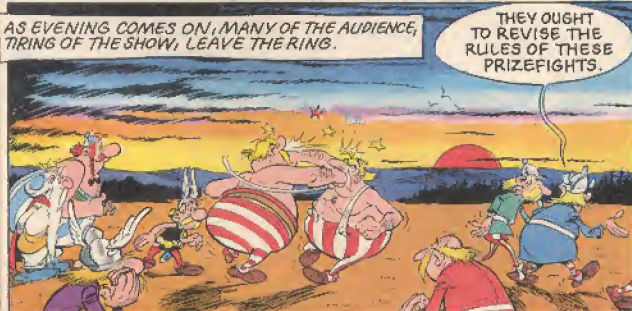
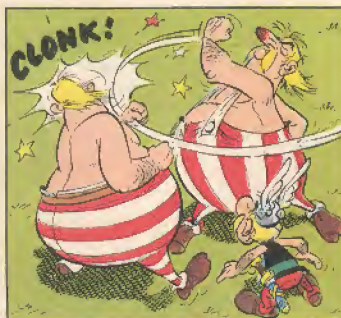
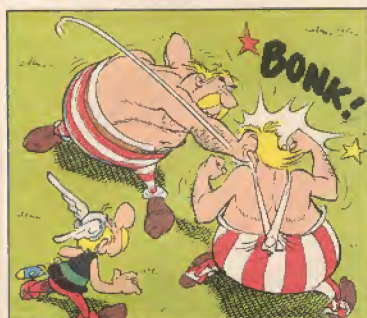
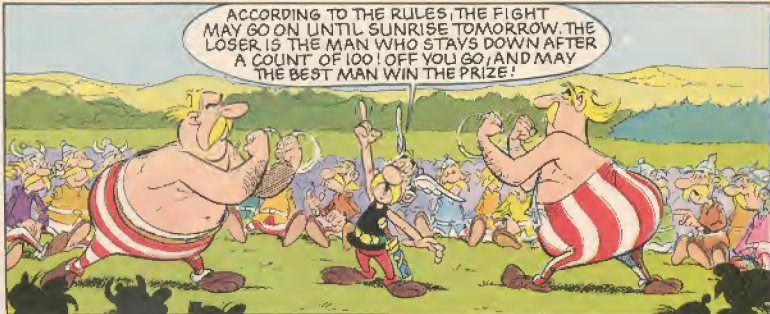
MELODRAMA IS QUITE  
RIGHT! FIGHT IF YOU  
MUST, BUT LEAVE THE  
OTHER VILLAGERS OUT  
OF IT. THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH  
OF YOUR QUARRELS!

AND SOON  
AFTER-  
WARDS...

NOW, YOU SENILE OLD  
DOTARD, I'LL SHOW YOU  
WHAT A REAL CHIEF CAN  
DO, AND WITH MY  
BARE HANDS!

YOU  
DYSPEPTIC OLD  
FOGY! YOU'RE  
IN FOR A  
SHOCK!



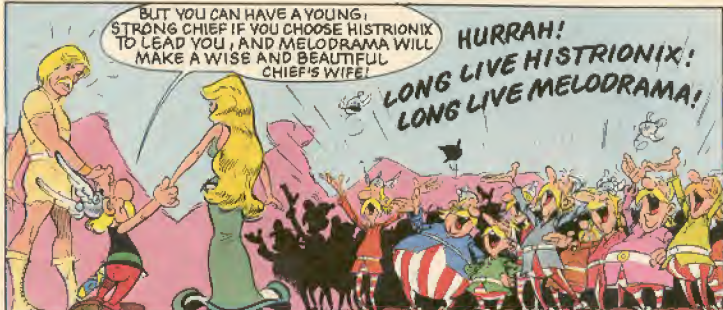




**FRIENDS, FATE HAS DECIDED THE RESULT OF THE SINGLE COMBAT... NO ONE HAS WON AND NO ONE HAS LOST!**



**BUT YOU CAN HAVE A YOUNG, STRONG CHIEF IF YOU CHOOSE HISTRIONIX TO LEAD YOU, AND MELODRAMA WILL MAKE A WISE AND BEAUTIFUL CHIEF'S WIFE!**

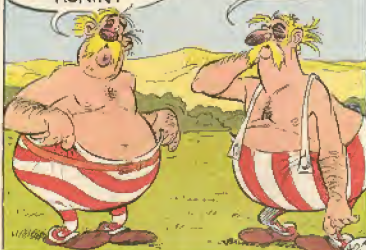


**HURRAH!  
LONG LIVE HISTRIONIX!  
LONG LIVE MELODRAMA!**

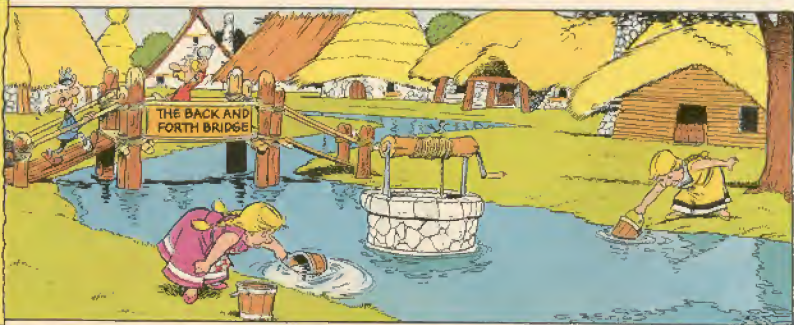


**OH, WELL, I RATHER THINK ALL WE CAN DO IS GET DRESSED AGAIN!**

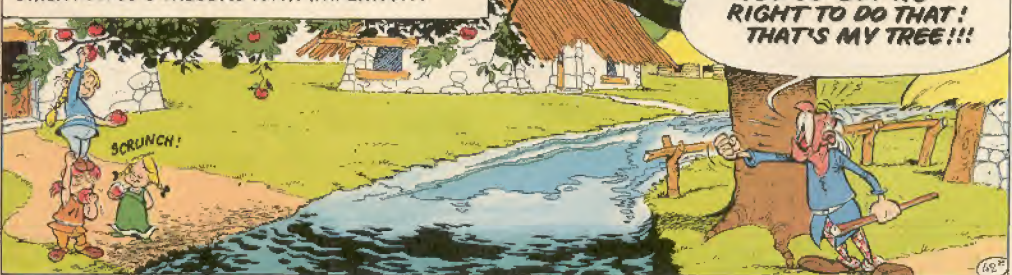
**YOU SAID IT, FAT-FACE!**



**REUNITED AT LAST, UNDER THE RULE OF THEIR NEW CHIEF HISTRIONIX, THE GAULS OF THE VILLAGE DIVERT PART OF THE NEARBY RIVER INTO THE DITCH, WHICH NO LONGER SERVES ANY USEFUL PURPOSE. AND NOW THERE IS NO PARTY OF THE RIGHT OR PARTY OF THE LEFT, ONLY A RIGHT BANK AND A LEFT BANK, RUNNING WATER ON EVERYONE'S DOORSTEP, AND FREEDOM FOR ALL THE VILLAGERS TO GO TO AND FRO.**

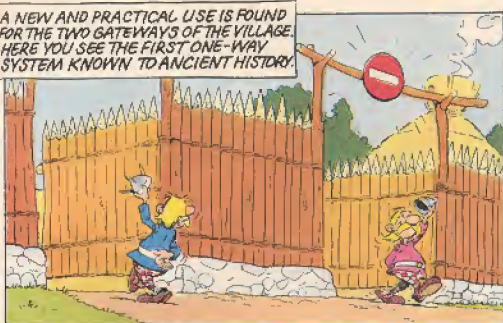


**THE CHILDREN CAN STILL GATHER THE FRUITS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LABOURS WITH IMPUNITY...**





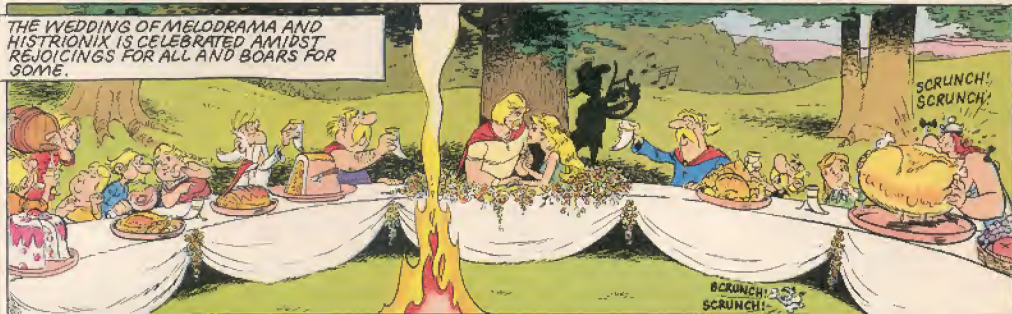
A NEW AND PRACTICAL USE IS FOUND FOR THE TWO GATEWAYS OF THE VILLAGE. HERE YOU SEE THE FIRST ONE-WAY SYSTEM KNOWN TO ANCIENT HISTORY!



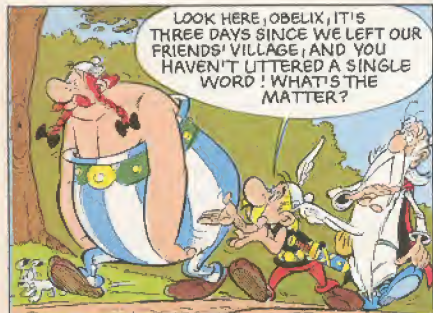
AND SCHIZOPHRENIA'S HUT IS REBUILT AT LAST... THOUGH THE ARCHITECTS DID SLIP UP HERE AND THERE IN THEIR PLANS.



THE WEDDING OF MELODRAMA AND HISTRIONIA IS CELEBRATED AMIDST REJOICINGS FOR ALL AND BOARS FOR SOME.







HOWEVER, THE PLEASURES OF HOME-COMING OVERSHADOW ALL OTHER EMOTIONS.

